**Writing Portfolio:**

An Autobiography Assignment



**“Whether I shall turn out to be the hero of my own life,**

**or whether that station will be held by anybody else,**

**these pages must show.”**

— David Copperfield by Charles Dickens

**Writing Portfolio: An Autobiography**

You will write some assignments in class; others will be homework; you will turn some in for comment, and share others in peer groups. Since you are required to have your book in a specific binder, you must plan ahead and budget time and money so you are not scrambling at the end of the semester.

You should revise ***ALL*** assignments before rewriting them in final form. If you do not type your assignments (which is highly recommended), you may write them neatly in final draft form. Most assignments will be approximately a page long, with the exception of some of our longer, more time consuming pieces. You may complete an assignment by writing on the back of a page, but start every new assignment on a new page.

* **Portfolio Binder** **--** Plan ahead and budget time and money to have your portfolio look professional and organized in a 1 inch three-ring binder, that has a clear display pocket on the front and back cover. I will provide the clear display sheets that will go inside the binders, but if you may want to pick some up as well since our binders will be
* **A Cover--** Your cover should include your selected title, your name, and an illus­tration appropriate to your book. For illustrations, consider a word pattern, graphic de­sign, collage, original drawings, photographs, magazine pictures, quotations, etc. Use rubber cement or a glue stick to mount items, and be sure that your cover design hides price tags and brand names.
* **A Title Page--**  Select a word or phrase particularly meaningful for you to serve as your title. Browse through a thesaurus, listen to music you love, think of special people and places and interests, and then submit several possible titles. “A Book about Me” or “My Autobiography” are poor titles because they are vague and impersonal. Illustrate the title page with the title, name, hour, and date due.
* **Table of Contents--** List the assignment number and title of all assignments in your autobiography. Title each contents page.
* **An Introduction--** Explain the significance of your title, making clear why it is relevant to your life in particular. Also include a brief description of this writing project and its purposes -- in your own words.

Every assignment should be:

a thoughtful response to the assigned topic

revised as necessary

neatly and legibly written or typed

in order according to this assignment booklet

in black ink

titled on the top line

numbered by assignment (not page) in the upper right corner

corrected using proofreading symbols or correction fluid

**COMPLETENESS** counts! But your writing should also demonstrate appropriate word usage, sentence structure, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation.

**Writing Portfolio: Specific Assignments**

**The first assignment in the Portfolio will be:**

**The Prologue:** Explain the significance of your title, making clear why it is relevant to your life in particular. Introduce yourself gracefully to your reader and capture our attention. Include a brief description of this writing project and its purposes — in your own words.

**. . . and the last assignment will be:**

**The Epilogue:** Imagine that a complete stranger just picked up this portfolio. The stranger reads it from page one to page thirty-nine. How would this stranger conceive of the author? What kind of person appears to have filled these pages? Write a **character sketch** of the person captured in these pages from an outsider’s point of view. Refer to **specific pieces** of writing to support the stranger’s impression of the author (you, of course).

The assignments included in between the first and the last will be selected from the formal assignments we complete in class. There will be some assignments we do which must be included in the portfolio, and some where you may be able decide between two or three, and others that are completely your choice. However, a large majority of what we do will make its way into the portfolio, so if you don’t complete an assignment it may come back to haunt you at the end of the semester.

**Assignments we all must complete, that will be included in the Portfolio (except for the Children’s Book), and that are longer than one page (expect A & B).**

A. Object Description (x2)

B. Place Description

C. Stream of Consciousness

D. Critical Essay on Published Work

E. Formal Letter, in allegorical form

F. Character Sketch

G. Satirical Article

H. Poetry Explication

I. Five Poems

J. Children’s Book

K. Memoir

L. Short Story

**Additional assignments we will be working on (most of these will be around one page in length):**

\*We may not get to all of them, and some students may complete assignments that others do not\*

1. A Letter of Introduction

2. What’s in a Name

3. Personal Alphabet

4. Likes / Dislikes List

5. Sensory Experiences

6. Metaphorical Definitions

7. A Quality Personality

8. Color Your World

9. Room Sweet Room

10. Personal Metaphors

11. Extended Metaphors

12. Symbolic Recipe:

13. The Ultimate All-Purpose Excuse

14. Unfinished Sentences

15. Personal Symbol

16. Map of Life

17. A Mysterious Place

18. Synectics

19. Telling Tales

20. These Words Belong to Me

21. In Other Words

22. Flashback

23. Remembrance of Things Present

24. As Time Goes Bye-Bye: *Carpe diem* (or, Seize the day!).

25. My Own List of Lists

26. A Day in the Life

27. Cheer Yourself Up

28. Metamorphosis

29. Picture This

30. Lessons I Learned After It Was Too Late

31. One Medium Suitcase

32. The Perfect Present

33. Look Who I Look Up To

34. Remembering the Child

35. Family Influence

36. Memorable Event

37. How to. . .:

38. Your Turn to Brag

39. Advice to the Young

40. Free Speech Speech

41. Always Say Never

42. Left Out and Lonely

43. Rewarding Experiences

44. Valuable Lessons

45. Driver's License

46. Dream Car

47. Extraordinary Pet

48. Are You Hungry

49. Who Am I

50. Coping with Current Events

51. Family Expectations

52. Deck of 52

53. The Examined Life

54. Futures -- Fantasy and Fact

55. Annual Report

**Title of Writing Portfolio \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Checklist and Grading Rubric**

**DONENESS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Prologue

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Letter of Introduction

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. What’s in a Name?

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Personal Alphabet

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. Likes/Dislikes List

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sensory Experiences

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Metaphorical Definitions

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. A Quality Personality

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Color Your World

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. Room Sweet Room

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. Personal Metaphors

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Extended Metaphors

\_\_\_\_\_ 12. Symbolic Recipe

\_\_\_\_\_ 13. Ultimate All-Purpose Excuse

\_\_\_\_\_ 14. Unfinished Sentences

\_\_\_\_\_ 15. Personal Symbol

\_\_\_\_\_ 16. Map of Life

\_\_\_\_\_ 17. A Mysterious Place

\_\_\_\_\_ 18. Synectics

\_\_\_\_\_ 19. Telling Tales

\_\_\_\_\_ 20. These Words Belong to Me

\_\_\_\_\_ 21. In Other Words

\_\_\_\_\_ 22. Flashback

\_\_\_\_\_ 23. Remembrance of Things Present

\_\_\_\_\_ 24. As Time Goes Bye-Bye

\_\_\_\_\_ 25. My Own List of Lists

\_\_\_\_\_ 26. A Day in the Life

\_\_\_\_\_ 27. Cheer Yourself Up!

\_\_\_\_\_ 28. Metamorphosis

\_\_\_\_\_ 29. Picture This

\_\_\_\_\_ 30. Lessons I Learned After It Was Too Late

\_\_\_\_\_ 31. One Medium Suitcase

\_\_\_\_\_ 32. The Perfect Present

\_\_\_\_\_ 33. Look Who I Look Up To

\_\_\_\_\_ 34. Remembering the Child

\_\_\_\_\_ 35. Family Influence

\_\_\_\_\_ 36. Memorable Event

\_\_\_\_\_ 37. How to …

\_\_\_\_\_ 38. Your Turn to Brag

\_\_\_\_\_ 39. Advice to the Young

\_\_\_\_\_ 40. Free Speech Speech

\_\_\_\_\_ 41. Always Say Never

\_\_\_\_\_ 42. Left Out and Lonely

\_\_\_\_\_ 43. Rewarding Experiences

\_\_\_\_\_ 44. Valuable Lessons

\_\_\_\_\_ 45. Driver’s License

\_\_\_\_\_ 46. Dream Car

\_\_\_\_\_ 47. Extraordinary Pet

\_\_\_\_\_ 48. Are You Hungry?

\_\_\_\_\_ 49. Who Am I?

\_\_\_\_\_ 50. Coping with Current Events

\_\_\_\_\_ 51. Family Expectations

\_\_\_\_\_ 52. Deck of 52

\_\_\_\_\_ 53. The Examined Life

\_\_\_\_\_ 54. Futures – Fantasy and Fact

\_\_\_\_\_ 55. Annual report

\_\_\_\_\_\_ A. Object Description

\_\_\_\_\_\_B. Place Description

\_\_\_\_\_\_C. SoC

\_\_\_\_\_\_D. Critical Essay

\_\_\_\_\_\_E. Formal Letter

\_\_\_\_\_\_F. Character Sketch

\_\_\_\_\_\_G. Satirical Article

\_\_\_\_\_\_H. Poetry Explication

\_\_\_\_\_\_I. Five Poems

\_\_\_\_\_\_J. Children’s Book

\_\_\_\_\_\_K. Memoir

\_\_\_\_\_\_L. Short Story

**NEATNESS CORRECTNESS**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cover Design \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Follows Directions

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Title Page \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Adequate Length

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Each Assignment Numbered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Grammar Acceptable

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Each Assignment Titled \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Punctuation Acceptable

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Assignments in Order \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spelling Acceptable

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Legible Handwriting or Typed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Corrections Made Neatly

**Bibliography/Credits for course sources, assignments, and rubrics:**

http://www.sasked.gov.sk.ca/docs/cw20/assess.html#purpose

http://www.heinemann.com/shared/onlineresources/E01046/sample.pdf

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